

# *VETERANS AFFAIRS*

## **0553 Office of the Inspector General for Veterans Affairs**

The Office of the Inspector General for Veterans Affairs has responsibility for reviewing the operations and financial conditions of State Veterans Homes, the State Farm and Home Purchase Program, State Veterans Services, and all other veterans programs supported by the state, including County Veterans Service Offices and Veterans Memorial Districts. The Inspector General also is required to operate a toll-free complaint hotline for veterans, conduct audits and investigations of state veterans' programs, and to make recommendations for improving the operations of veterans' programs.

The Governor is proposing to eliminate the Office of the Inspector General beginning July 1, 2004.

## **8955 Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has three primary objectives: (1) provide comprehensive assistance to veterans and dependents of veterans in obtaining benefits and rights to which they may be entitled under state and federal laws; (2) afford California veterans the opportunity of becoming homeowners through the medium of loans available to them under the Cal-Vet farm and home loan program; and (3) provide support for California veterans homes where eligible veterans may live in a retirement community and where nursing care and hospitalization are provided. The department operates veterans' homes in Yountville (Napa County), Barstow (San Bernardino County), and Chula Vista (San Diego County). The homes provide medical care, rehabilitation, and residential home services.

The Governor proposes total expenditures of \$293.7 million (\$61.2 million General Fund), a decrease of \$10.4 million from the current-year budget. Included in the Governor's proposed budget are the following reductions:

- \$430,000 General Fund and 22.7 PYs for the Care of Sick and Disabled Veterans pursuant to (Control Section 4.10).
- \$1.8 million General Fund redirection, including 22.0 PYs, from the Home's appropriation to headquarters' appropriation.
- \$569,000 General Fund and the elimination of 105.0 PYs by contracting for food services and security related services.
- \$450,000 General Fund and the elimination of 6.0 PYs resulting from closing the Alcohol Dependency Treatment Program.